

EDITORIAL

SITTING as a novice in an editor's chair is not one of the most comfortable situations. But the position is greatly eased for the new incumbent by his inheriting the tradition and the good will built up by his two predecessors. I would like to assure readers that I have no intention of deliberately departing from the one or of dissipating the other, and to ask for their indulgence if to begin with they find *THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT* falling short of what they have grown accustomed to expect. If they care to give any more active support than mere indulgence, in the shape of practical suggestions and criticisms, they will be most welcome.

Fr Henry St John, in his farewell editorial last month, commended me to the support of contributors as well as of readers. I would like to say that more than anything else I covet two kinds of contribution in particular; first, translations of passages, about 2,000 words in length, from the ancient Fathers; secondly, short 1,500-word sketches of saints, *beati*, and other outstanding Christian figures. I would like to have such a sketch as a regular monthly feature, and I am happy to have one in this issue by S.M.C., Dominican authoress of *Brother Petroc's Return*, to open the series.

I must also ask for the forbearance of contributors if articles are sometimes returned to them, or if they are provisionally accepted, and then fail to appear for a long time. But the chief function of an editor, I suppose, is to choose; he can perform it best if he has plenty to choose from; and selection must involve the stern necessity of rejection.



SECULAR INSTITUTES: II—FOR THE WORLD

TERESA MELIA

SENT into the world on my errand.' The word apostle signifies one who is sent.

Who sends, to whom, and why? Christ is the sender. To whom does Christ send his apostles? To the whole world. The Kingdom of God has no visible frontiers, it is within the